

What is the 62 inch rule on Southwest?

The Official Linear Inches Definition

The 62 inch rule on Southwest states that the total exterior dimensions (Length + Width + Height) of your checked bag must not exceed 62 inches +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. This includes wheels and handles +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To ensure compliance, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 for a pre-travel check +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

Measuring Your Bag Correctly

To understand what the 62 inch rule on Southwest looks like, measure your bag from the wheels up to the highest point +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. A standard large suitcase is usually 27" x 21" x 14" = 62" +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If you are unsure, call Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 and ask them to verify your bag's dimensions +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

The Fee for Oversized Bags

If your bag violates the 62 inch rule on Southwest, you will pay a hefty fee +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For flights booked recently, bags between 63–80 inches incur a \$200 oversized charge plus the standard baggage fee +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To avoid this surprise, get in touch with their support team at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

The "Bags Fly Free" Exception

The 62 inch rule on Southwest applies even to the famous "Bags Fly Free" perk +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Even if you are not paying for the bag, it must still be under 62 linear inches +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For clarity on how this applies to your free luggage, call their representative at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 before you pack +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

Carry-On vs +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Checked Bags

The 62 inch rule on Southwest applies strictly to checked luggage +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Carry-ons must fit the sizer at the gate (10x16x24 inches) +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If you try to carry on a bag that fits the 62 inch rule on Southwest (it is huge), they will force you to check it at the gate +1

(877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Call +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 for gate check policies +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

International Embargoes & 62 Inches

For international travel, the 62 inch rule on Southwest is strictly enforced +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. During embargoes to destinations like Cuba or Jamaica, bags over 62 inches are not accepted at all—no fee waivers +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To confirm if your route has an embargo, reach +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 directly +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

The Overweight Combination Risk

Beware of combining violations +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your bag violates the 62 inch rule on Southwest and is also over 50 lbs, you pay a double fee +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, the maximum charge is capped at \$200 plus the base fee +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To calculate your exact cost, call Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Soft-Sided Duffel Bags

The 62 inch rule on Southwest is risky for duffel bags +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Duffels often bulge in the middle, increasing the linear inches +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You must measure the fullest part +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your duffel is 64", it is oversize +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To ask about soft-sided exemptions, get in touch at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Military and Active Duty Exemptions

Active duty US military personnel generally have the 62 inch rule on Southwest waived for travel on orders +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, personal travel still requires compliance +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For specific military baggage instructions, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Sports Equipment: Golf Clubs

Regarding the 62 inch rule on Southwest, golf bags are usually accepted as a standard checked bag if they weigh under 50 lbs +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, standard golf bags are usually 46 inches—well under the limit +1

(877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For oversized hockey or surfboards, you must call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Musical Instruments on Board

If your instrument case exceeds the 62 inch rule on Southwest, it cannot fly as a carry-on +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. It must be checked or you must purchase an extra seat +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. This includes cellos in hard cases +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To book an extra seat for an instrument, call Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Moving Boxes as Luggage

You can use a cardboard box, but it must abide by the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. A standard "Large" moving box is often 18x18x24 (60 inches), which is fine +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. A "Wardrobe" box (48x20x10 = 78 inches) is too large +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For box dimension limits, get in touch at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Infant and Child Items

Children's items have different rules +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The 62 inch rule on Southwest does not apply to strollers or car seats checked at the gate +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, if you check a Pack 'n Play at the ticket counter, those dimensions count toward the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 for stroller tags +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

The Difference Between Inches and Weight

The 62 inch rule on Southwest is a size limit, not a weight limit +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You can have a bag that fits 62 inches perfectly but weighs 100 lbs (rejected) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Or a bag that is 80 inches but only 40 lbs (rejected) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To get a physical baggage allowance breakdown, reach +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Why 62 Inches?

The 62 inch rule on Southwest exists because 62 linear inches is the standard industry size for conveyor belts and cargo doors +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Bags larger than this must be hand-processed, slowing down operations +1

(877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For a history of this baggage standard, call their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

How to Appeal an Oversize Charge

If you feel an agent miscalculated the 62 inch rule on Southwest, do not argue at the gate +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Pay the fee to fly, then contact customer relations later +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To file a refund request for an erroneous oversize fee, get in touch with Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Packing to Avoid the Limit

To master the 62 inch rule on Southwest, pack heavy items in a smaller bag +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Use a 26" suitcase (usually 55 linear inches) to leave room for souvenirs +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If you are a chronic over-packer, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 for tips on using two free bags instead of one big one +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

Hawaii and Inter-Island Flights

The 62 inch rule on Southwest applies to Hawaii flights, but fees may differ +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Oversize fees for Hawaii inter-island travel are often lower (

35–

35–70) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, the 62-inch hard limit remains +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To verify rates for your specific Hawaiian itinerary, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Checking Ski and Snowboard Equipment

Ski equipment is a special case +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. While a ski bag easily exceeds 62 inches (often 70+), Southwest waives the oversize fee for ski bags if they are within the weight limit +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You must still declare them +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To ensure your poles are packed safely, reach Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Rapid Rewards Status Holders

A-list Preferred members do not get a waiver for the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Size limits apply equally to all passengers,

regardless of status +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Only weight limits occasionally have higher thresholds for elites +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To discuss your specific Rapid Rewards benefits, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

The "New" Policy 2025/2026

As of recent updates, the 62 inch rule on Southwest remains unchanged even as fees for basic checked bags rise +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Only the first two bags are free for certain ticket types, but the 62-inch rule remains the hard standard +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To ask if your ticket includes free bags, get in touch at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Connecting Flights vs +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Direct The 62 inch rule on Southwest applies to the entire journey +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your bag is 62 inches, it is fine for a Boeing 73 However, smaller regional jets are rare in their fleet +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For specific aircraft compatibility questions, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

What Happens to the Bag?

When you check a bag adhering to the 62 inch rule on Southwest, it goes on the normal belt +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If you exceed it, you must take it to the "Oversize" drop off area, usually near the ticket counter +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To find the oversize drop location at your airport, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Tools and Hardware

The 62 inch rule on Southwest prohibits long tools +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. A shovel or level over 62 inches is banned +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, tools under 62 inches that weigh under 50 lbs are fine if properly packed +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For permission to transport a specific toolbox, call Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Business Select Boarding

Buying a Business Select ticket does not change the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You still cannot check an 80-inch bag for free +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The priority tags only speed up delivery, not size compliance +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To

upgrade your boarding position without upgrading luggage, get in touch at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Medical Devices & CPAP

Medical devices are exempt from the 62 inch rule on Southwest if they are assistive devices +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. A CPAP machine does not count toward your carry-on limit and can be larger +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, standard medical supply bags must still fit +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To register a medical device exemption, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Damage Claims for Oversize Bags

If you check a bag violating the 62 inch rule on Southwest, the liability for damage changes +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Oversize bags are handled manually and are more likely to tear +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your over-62-inch bag is damaged, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 to file a claim +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

Third Party Bookings

If you booked via Expedia or Kayak, the 62 inch rule on Southwest still applies +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, changing your baggage allowance on a third-party booking is harder +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You must link the reservation +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To add a bag to an external booking, call Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

The "Lose the Wheels" Trick

The 62 inch rule on Southwest includes wheels +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your bag is 63 inches, removing aftermarket wheel covers or bulky wheels might save you +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Some travelers cut wheels off rigid suitcases to fit +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For advice on legal dimension modification, get in touch at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Senior and Youth Discounts

There are no senior citizen waivers for the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Everyone pays the same oversize fee (\$200+) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, youth traveling alone have the same baggage allowance +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To

book a youth ticket with baggage assistance, reach +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Traveling with a Wedding Dress

A wedding dress garment bag is exempt from the 62 inch rule on Southwest if you ask nicely and there is closet space +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The official policy requires it to fit the 62-inch rule, but gate agents often accommodate brides +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To guarantee a closet hook for your dress, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Pet Carriers as Checked Bags

The 62 inch rule on Southwest does not apply to pet carriers brought into the cabin (they go under the seat) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, if you check a large kennel in the cargo hold, the kennel must meet the 62-inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To book a pet in the cargo hold, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Human Remains & Urns

Exceptions exist for bereavement +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The 62 inch rule on Southwest is often waived for shipping human remains or oversized urns, provided paperwork is presented +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You must contact them in advance +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To arrange a bereavement fare and special baggage handling, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Leaving the Airport

If your bag fits the 62 inch rule on Southwest, it will come out on the carousel with everyone else's +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Oversized bags (over 62) come out at the "Claim 3" or special baggage office +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To locate the oversize office before you land, get in touch with Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

The Future of the Rule

Will the 62 inch rule on Southwest change? With fleet updates, Southwest is sticking to the IATA standard of 62 linear inches +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. It is unlikely to change to 60 or 65 inches anytime soon +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For press releases regarding future baggage policy, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

Part 2: Top 10 FAQs from SERP Analysis

Based on Google's "People Also Ask" and common search queries related to "What is the 62 inch rule on Southwest?"

FAQ 1: What happens if my bag is 63 inches on Southwest?

A bag over 62 inches is "oversized +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787." You will pay a

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200fee(plusthestandard0-\$75 bag fee) for bags up to 80 inches +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Bags over 80 inches are completely banned +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To pay this fee in advance or confirm acceptance, reach their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 2: Is the 62 inch rule including wheels?

Yes +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The 62 inch rule on Southwest explicitly requires you to include wheels, handles, and external pockets in your measurement +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Southwest Airlines agents use a tape measure over the entire bag +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If wheels add 2 inches, they count +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 to verify your specific bag dimensions +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

FAQ 3: Does Southwest waive the 62 inch rule for military?

For active duty on PCS orders, yes, weight and size limits are often waived up to 100 lbs and 80 inches +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For leisure travel, you must follow the 62 inch rule on Southwest +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Get in touch with their military desk at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 for authorization forms +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

FAQ 4: What is the oversize fee for 70 inches?

Per the current optional travel charges, the fee for a 70-inch bag (violating the 62 inch rule on Southwest) is \$200 plus the applicable checked bag fee +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. This is standard for all oversize between 63-80 inches +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787 to pay this fee +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787.

FAQ 5: Are skis exempt from the 62-inch rule?

Yes, specifically for sports equipment +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Southwest waives the oversize fee for ski and snowboard bags, even if they exceed 62 inches, provided they are under 50 lbs +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. However, the 62 inch rule on Southwest still applies to standard luggage +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For ski baggage tags, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 6: Can I bring a box as a checked bag?

You can, as long as the box fits the 62 inch rule on Southwest (L+W+H) +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Boxes are accepted but cannot be fragile +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If your box is a wardrobe box (usually 80+ inches), it is banned +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To confirm if a storage tote fits, reach Southwest Airlines at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 7: Does the 62-inch rule apply to international flights?

Yes, but with stricter enforcement +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For flights to Belize or Jamaica, the 62 inch rule on Southwest is an absolute cutoff due to baggage embargoes; no oversized bags are accepted at all +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. To check your destination's specific embargo, call their representative at +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 8: How do I measure a duffel bag?

The 62 inch rule on Southwest measures the longest points +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For a duffel, lay it flat and measure length, then height at the apex of the bulge, then width +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. Duffels often exceed 62 inches when full +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For a visual measuring guide, get in touch via +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 9: Can I pool bags to avoid the rule?

No +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The 62 inch rule on Southwest applies per bag +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. You cannot combine two 40-inch bags to make one 80-inch bag +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. If one bag is 64 inches, it is oversize regardless of how small your other bag is +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For booking additional luggage allowance, call +1 (877)--(407)--0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278

FAQ 10: What changed in the 2026 baggage policy?

While the 62 inch rule on Southwest stayed the same, the fees associated with violating

it increased +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. As of 2026, oversize fees are

200(upfrom

200(*upfrom*125) +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. The dimensional limit (62") remains constant +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-2787. For a full breakdown of the 2026 fee sheet, reach +1 (877)--(407)–0188 OR +44-(808)-(164)-278